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Letter dated 13 April 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to consultations I had with members of the Security Council on 5 April 2007, following my trip to the Middle East region. As you will recall, one of the issues we discussed at that meeting was a proposal contained in paragraph 64 of my report on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) (S/2007/147). I had suggested that, in considering further steps to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 15 of resolution 1701 (2006), including the arms embargo, the Security Council might wish to support an independent assessment mission to monitor the border.

As you will also recall, one question raised by some members of the Council was with regard to the position of the Government of Lebanon vis-à-vis this proposal. I am pleased to inform you that, during a telephone conversation that I had with Prime Minister Siniora yesterday, he welcomed the idea and agreed in principle to the mission. We also agreed that, if the Council supports the proposal, the United Nations would cooperate closely with the Government of Lebanon on the terms of reference of such a mission.

I would like the mission envisaged in paragraph 64 of my report to provide recommendations on measures and strategies leading to the enhancement of border security along Lebanon's border with the Syrian Arab Republic. This would build on the work of earlier United Nations and bilateral missions. I would also like to clarify that the proposal entails sending a small team, with specific terms of reference and for a limited period of time, to fully assess the monitoring of the whole border.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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